

by the King or local noble, these town-councils were presided over by the royal bailli. A foe of the communes, Frederick was yet a friend of the lower orders; personal slavery was forbidden on the royal domains, the lords were forbidden to ill-treat the peasants, and an edict forbade the cattle of the poor to be seized for debt.

The Constitution of the kingdom under Frederick is that of which the foundations were long since laid by the Norman conquerors. It is a natural expansion of the work of Roger II. and his immediate successors, only the royal power is made yet more apparent in it. The all-prominent figure in the government of the realm is now that of the Grand Justiciar, the "Mirror of Justice"; these officials, aided by judges of the Imperial Court or *Magna Curia*, sitting for the mainland at Capua, supervise all justice and control the under-justiciars; at certain periods they go on assise throughout the kingdom; paid by the treasury and drawn from the middle classes, they represent the very spirit of the anti-feudal and anti-communal administration.

Along with them or under them there continue to exercise their office the justiciars,

the *camera-*
rii, the baillis of former reigns, while in
the court
the Grand Admiral, the Marshal, the
Logothete
stand close to the Crown. The
government,
national and local, becomes more and
more
scientific and modern in aspect, the
great mass of